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C.R.

BUCKFASTLEIGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1954.

<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	23	20	44
	Illegitimate		1	
Still Births	"		1	1
Birth rate (per 1,000 population)		CRUDE	17.46	
		CORRECTED	19.5	

<u>DEATHS</u>		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
		17	15	32
Death-rate (per 1,000 population)		CRUDE	12.7	
		CORRECTED	9	
Estimated population (mid-1954)		2520		
Deaths of infants under 1 year		1		
Death-rate (per 1,000 live births)		22.7		

The causes of death as classified by the Registrar-General:-

Tuberculosis - Respiratory	2
Malignant neoplasm (cancer)	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4
Coronary disease - angina	6
Other heart disease	7
Other circulatory disease	1
Pneumonia	5
Other respiratory disease	1
Other disease	1
	<u>32</u>

Age Incidence.

Under 1 year	1
20 - 30	1
40 - 50	2
50 - 60	3
60 - 70	7
70 - 80	7
80 - 90	7
90 - 100	4

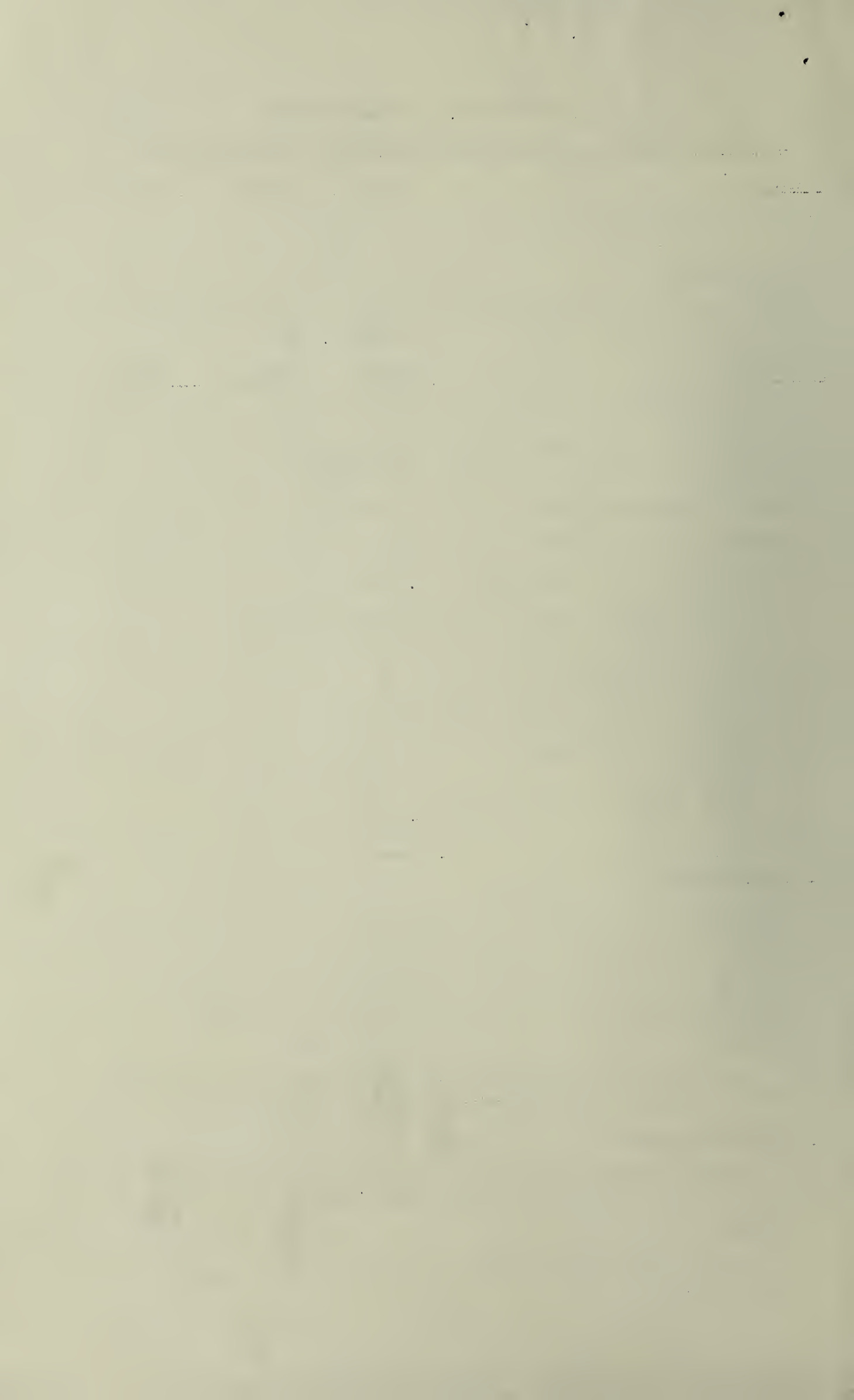
The average age of the 25 who died after reaching the age of 60 was 78. Thirteen deaths occurred in hospitals.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 7 cases of whooping cough, 3 of chicken pox, one of measles and 3 of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

HOUSING.

Thirty-seven two-bedroom houses were completed at the Tweenaways site during the year.



### DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

Sludge beds were drained as a temporary measure pending the installation of the new Sewage Works.

### WATER SUPPLY.

New pH correction plant was installed. The quality of the water is good and several analyses taken during the year proved satisfactory. Two houses outside the area are now being supplied with water.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This is still being carried out at the Welfare Centre, at the Schools and by the local medical practitioners.

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## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING.

During the year the Caravan Park was completed comprising just over 2 acres of grassland with ornamental trees and shrubs, and an amenities block containing conveniences for ladies and gentlemen, hot and/or cold showers, slop hopper for chemical closets, a refuse bay, and two drinking water points. The site is restricted to a maximum of 50 tourist caravans at one time, and is closed during the winter months, no permanent bookings being permitted.

The factories were inspected during the year and were found to be in order.

The Council submitted to an injunction restraining it from polluting the River Dart brought by the Anglers Co-operative Association on behalf of local anglers. The terms of the order prohibit the use of the effluent drain from the works except during periods when the flow in the river is three times the normal dry weather flow. This has resulted in the overloading of the irrigation meadows which were already "sewage sick".

The ending of meat rationing saw the return of private slaughtering and after compliance with notices to do certain modifications to existing slaughterhouses, the Council licensed two slaughterhouses.

The whole of the district has been inspected by the Rodent Operator and no serious infestations have been found. The areas affected have been the ash tip and alongside the watercourse between Elliott Plain and Station Bridge.

One application was agreed (but not taken up) and two applications were refused for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, Part II.

### FOOD INSPECTION.

Every food shop and dairy in the town has been inspected and apart from minor defects which were remedied, everything was satisfactory.

They fall into the following categories and numbers:-

General and Grocery	11
Butchers	3
Fish	3
Greengrocery	1
Dairies	3

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The quantity of food condemned is small, being in the main, tinned food which is disposed of by burying on the dump by Council workmen.

So far as condemned meat is concerned, it is scored and stained and left with the butcher to dispose of.

#### WATER.

Two fringe orders were made during the year and water was supplied.

The augmentation scheme from Brockhill Mire was completed and the pH correction plant was installed. From tests it seems that the contact period is insufficient, as the water is consumed within 12 hours of treatment. A pH of 7.0 is attained after 36 hours.

#### SEWERAGE.

Two sludge lagoons at the Works were cleaned out to afford temporary "breathing space" pending the construction of new Works and the meadows were "mole-drained" to allow a greater area of irrigation.

To expedite the new sewerage scheme a Joint Sewerage Committee was formed of six members from Buckfastleigh Urban District Council and six members from Ashburton Urban District Council.

#### PLAYING FIELDS.

A small area of land in Abbey Meadow has been leased from Buckfast Abbey to provide a playing field for schoolchildren.

Council Offices,  
Harewood,  
Buckfastleigh,  
Devon.  
31st December, 1955.

E. IRONSIDE  
Medical Officer of Health.  
  
G.T.W. ALLEN  
Sanitary Inspector.



